(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of cereal crops, the Government is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals in all the States and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

The Government have taken/initiated the following measures in order to give a boost to the sugar production during 1994-95 sugar season:—

(i) Early-crushing incentives have been announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production achieved during the period 1.10.1994 to 15.11.1994.

(ii) Late-crushing incentives have been announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 75%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production achieved during the period 1.5.1995 to 31.7.1995.

(iii) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1994-95 season has been raised to Rs. 39.10 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5% with a premium of Rs. 0.46 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above that level upto 10% and Rs. 0.60 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 10%.

(iv) An advance announcement of SMP for 1995-96 season has been made at Rs. 42.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%, subject to premium for higher recoveries.

(v) Loans are also being provided from the Sugar Development Fund at concessional rates of interest to sugar factories for undertaking cane development schemes in their areas of operation.

(vi) Further for increasing the production and productivity of sugarcane, a centrally sponsored scheme on "Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System" has been launched in 21 States from the year 1995-96.

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Role of Director General of Labour Welfare

814. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role to be played by Director General of Labour Welfare on various issues affecting beedi and cigar workers;

(b) what are the administrative problems or hurdles in forming or initiating steps to study legislation detrimental to the interest of this sector of workers;

(c) whether it is a fact that Director General of Labour Welfare has ignored this problem; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Director General (Labour Welfare) heads the Labour Welfare Organisation which administers, inter-alia, the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund established under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 through nine regional Welfare Commissioners and is in overall charge of all welfare activities undertaken for the benefit of Beedi workers.

(b) to (d) All issues affecting the welfare of this section of workers are examined by the Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry of Labour with due care and attention.

Shortage of foodgrains in South India

815. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Southern States are still facing acute shortage of foodgrains, especially for supply through PDS, while FCI has been holding on huge buffer stocks in the Northern States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that instead of moving surplus stocks direct from Northern States to Southern States, the FCI has been routing despatches through